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June 24, 2002

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX ISSUE FEE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application
Applicant(s) :Diane Conroy
Serial No. :09/624,330
Date Allowed: :March 25, 2002
Filed :July 12, 2000
Title :WATER CRAFT
Docket No. :2509-1-001

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to BOX ISSUE FEE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231 on June 24, 2002.

Stephen Gigante, Reg. No. 42,576
(Name of Registered Representative)

Stephen Gigante, 6/24/02
(Signature and Date)

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Sir:

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Enclosed are copies of Priority Documents mailed to you on June 3, 2002. To date, we have not received the returned stamped postcard and we are requesting that the above referenced patent show that the claim for priority has been perfected. As we are paying the Issue Fee today, time is of the essence.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gigante
STEPHEN GIGANTE
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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SG/lc
Enclosures



#5
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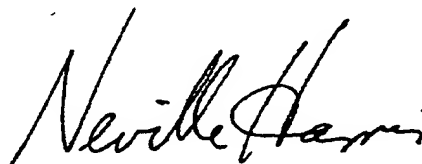
CERTIFICATE

This certificate is issued in support of an application for Patent registration in a country outside New Zealand pursuant to the Patents Act 1953 and the Regulations thereunder.

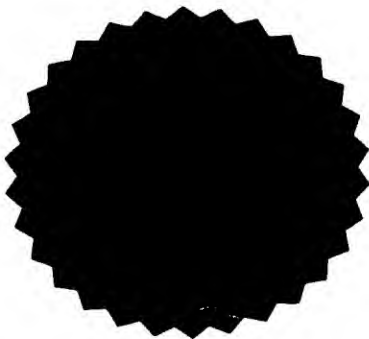
I hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional Specification as filed on 12 July 1999 with an application for Letters Patent number 336760 made by DIANNE CONROY.

Dated 15 May 2002.

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Neville Harris
Commissioner of Patents



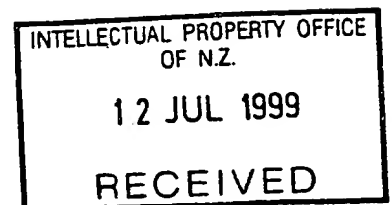


THE PATENTS ACT 1953

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

A WATER CRAFT

I, **DIANNE CONROY**, a New Zealand citizen, of 480 Pukehina Parade, RD 9, Pukehina, Te Puke, New Zealand, do hereby declare this invention to be described in and by the following statement:



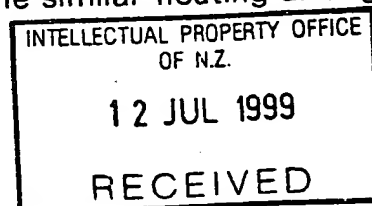
This invention relates to water craft. In particular, a preferred form of the invention relates to an unmanned water craft for use in fishing.

In the context of on-shore fishing it is desirable for a fisherman to be able to drop a baited hook and line some distance from the shore. To achieve this it is known to use a small unmanned water craft to carry a baited hook and line to a desired water position some way from the shore. Such craft are normally attached to a safety line which is held by the fisherman on shore. However, a problem with this mode of fishing is that it is difficult to control the distance traveled by the craft out across the water. A further problem is that in the event of a wave overturning the craft it must be dragged back to shore by way of the attached safety line. It is accordingly an object of at least some forms of the invention to go at least some way towards addressing the above problems.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a small unmanned water craft for carrying a line to which a hook is attached across a body of water, the water craft comprising a base, a sail arrangement, and control means, the control means being capable of being activated from the shore to cause a sail forming part of the sail arrangement to assume a non-hoisted position.

Preferably the control means is capable of being activated by pulling a line extending from the shore to the craft when the craft is waterborne. Optionally the control means may be activated by remote control.

Preferably the base comprises a hull or some similar floating arrangement.



According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a water craft for carrying a line to which a hook is attached across a body of water, the water craft comprising a base and a weight, the weight being substantially offset from the base such that if the water craft is overturned while floating over a body of water the weight causes the craft to revert to a normal floating position.

Preferably the base comprises a hull or some similar floating structure. The base may comprise a buoyant tube.

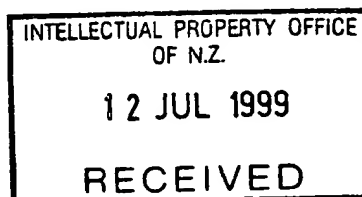
Preferably the weight comprises a keel held out to one side of the base and arranged to be substantially submerged when the water craft is in the normal floating position.

Some preferred forms of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a water craft suitable for use in fishing,

Figures 2 and 3 show detail of a sail arrangement forming part of the water craft, and

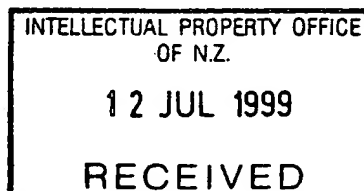
Figures 4 and 5 show detail of various parts of the water craft which enable it to right itself if overturned.



With reference to figures 1, 2 and 3, the water craft is of a small size and is used for carrying a baited hook and line (not shown) across a body of water to a desired position for fishing. The craft is unmanned and, when in use, is set out across the water while a fisherman on shore holds a line attached to the craft. The craft has a hull 1, and a sail arrangement which includes a mast 2 and sail 3. The sail arrangement enables the craft to be driven by the wind to the desired position for fishing.

When the desired position is reached it is preferable to drop the sail 3 to prevent significant further travel of the craft. To achieve this there is provided a "control means". More particularly, the control means comprises a shaft 4 extending through a housing 5. A spring 6 is arranged within the housing 5 to bias the shaft 4 towards the sail arrangement. With particular reference to figure 2, when the sail 3 is in a hoisted position a forward end 7 of the shaft 4 contacts and prevents movement of a sail release arm 8. The sail release arm 8 extends outwards from an axis 9 which is at least partially rotatable on mounting brackets 10. A release catch 11 and a reset handle 12 also extend outwards from the axis 9.

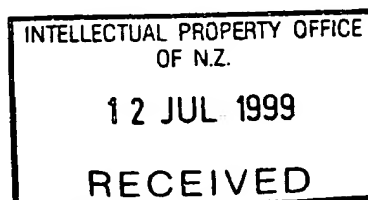
With further reference to figure 2, the sail 3 is held in a hoisted position by threads 13 extending from the sail 3 and looped onto the release catch 11. More particularly, the threads 13 extend from the release catch 11, pass through a ring-like spring arrangement 14, pass through rings 15 attached to the mast's cross piece, and are secured to outer parts of the sail 3. The ring-like spring arrangement 14 facilitates tension in the threads 13 when the sail 3 is hoisted.



To drop the sail 3 a fisherman on shore pulls on a control line 16 attached to an end 17 of the shaft 4 which is opposite the shaft's forward end 7. Pulling on the control line 16 serves to counter the spring 6 to move the forward end 7 of the shaft 4 away from the release arm 8. As shown at figure 3, moving the forward end 7 away from the release arm 8 causes the axis 9 to partially rotate, thus moving the release catch 11 upwards and towards the sail 3. As the release catch 11 moves in this way the threads 13, which are under tension, pull free from the release catch 11 thus enabling the sail 3 to drop under gravity. To return the craft to shore at the conclusion of fishing one need only pull on the line attached to the craft, which may or may not be the same as the control line 16.

If the water craft is overturned by a wave while in use it is able to right itself without the need for the fisherman to drag it back to shore. With reference to figures 4 and 5, the craft's self righting mechanism involves the use of a keel 17 extending from the side of, and below, the hull 1. As can be seen, the keel 17 is joined to the hull 1 by way of a connecting rod 18. The keel 17 is of a weight and angle with respect to the hull 1 so that if the craft is overturned, the keel 17 will revert to its original orientation under gravity, thus pulling the craft to a proper upright sailing position.

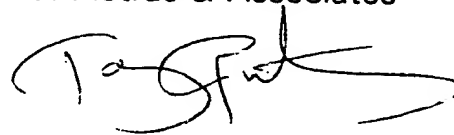
Preferably the bar 18 attaches to the hull 1 by way of a mounting plate 19. The mounting plate 19 extends from a mast housing 20 associated with a "T" shaped frame 21. As demonstrated in figures 4 and 5, there are base brackets 22 extending downwards from the end of each arm of the "T" shaped frame 21.



While some preferred forms of the invention have been described by way of example, it should be appreciated that improvements and modifications can occur without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

DIANNE CONROY

By her Authorised Attorney
A.J. Pietras & Associates



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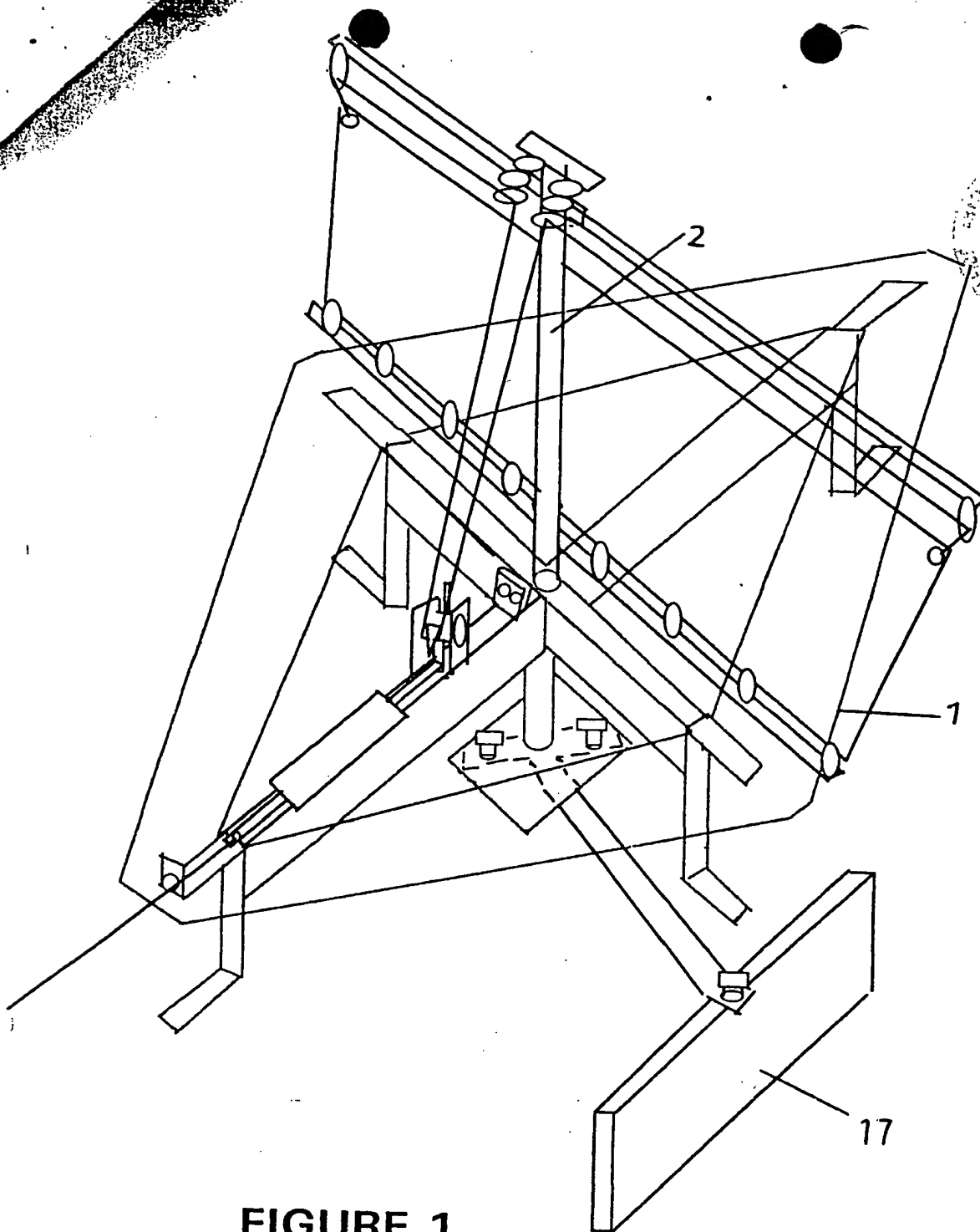
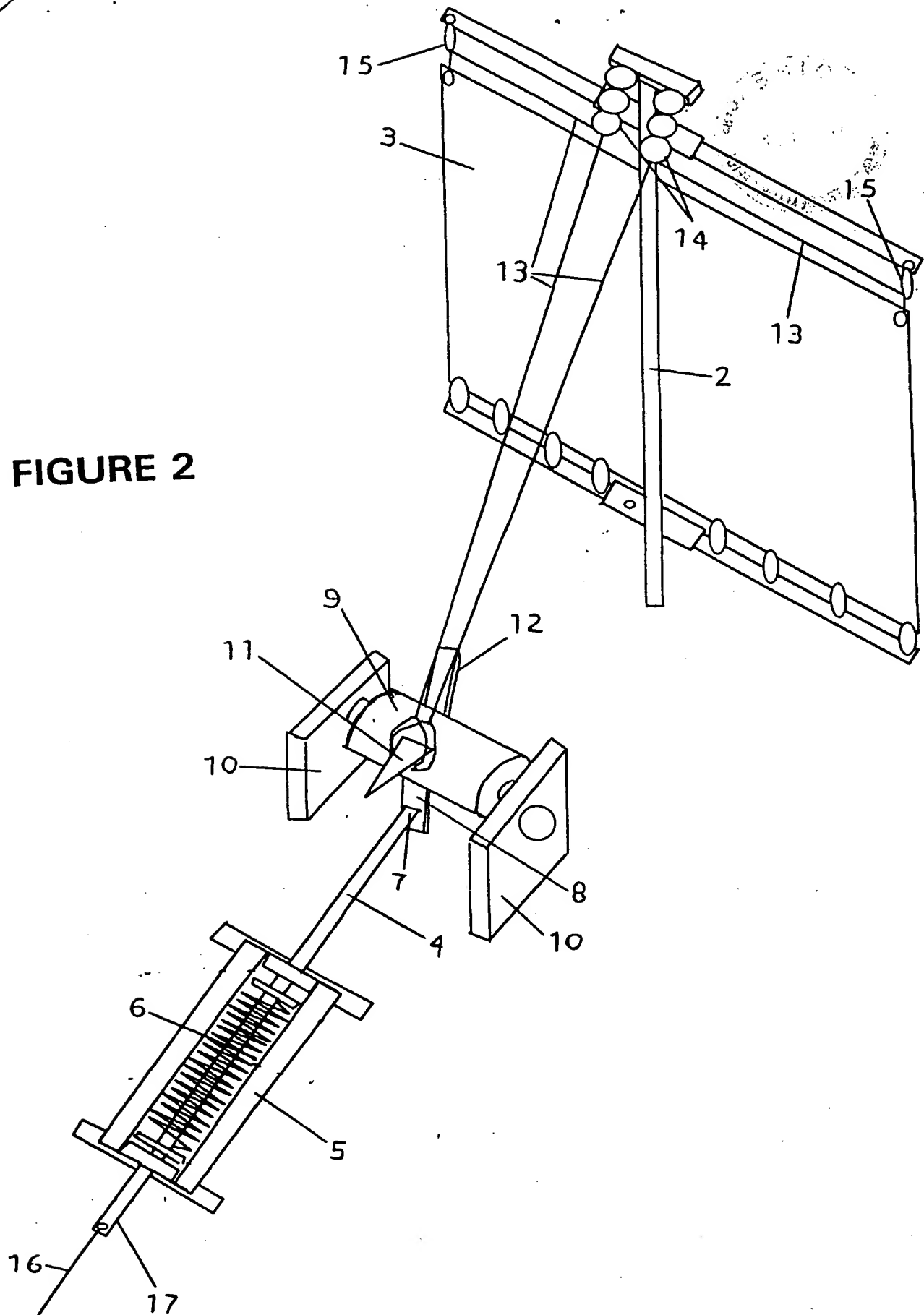


FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2



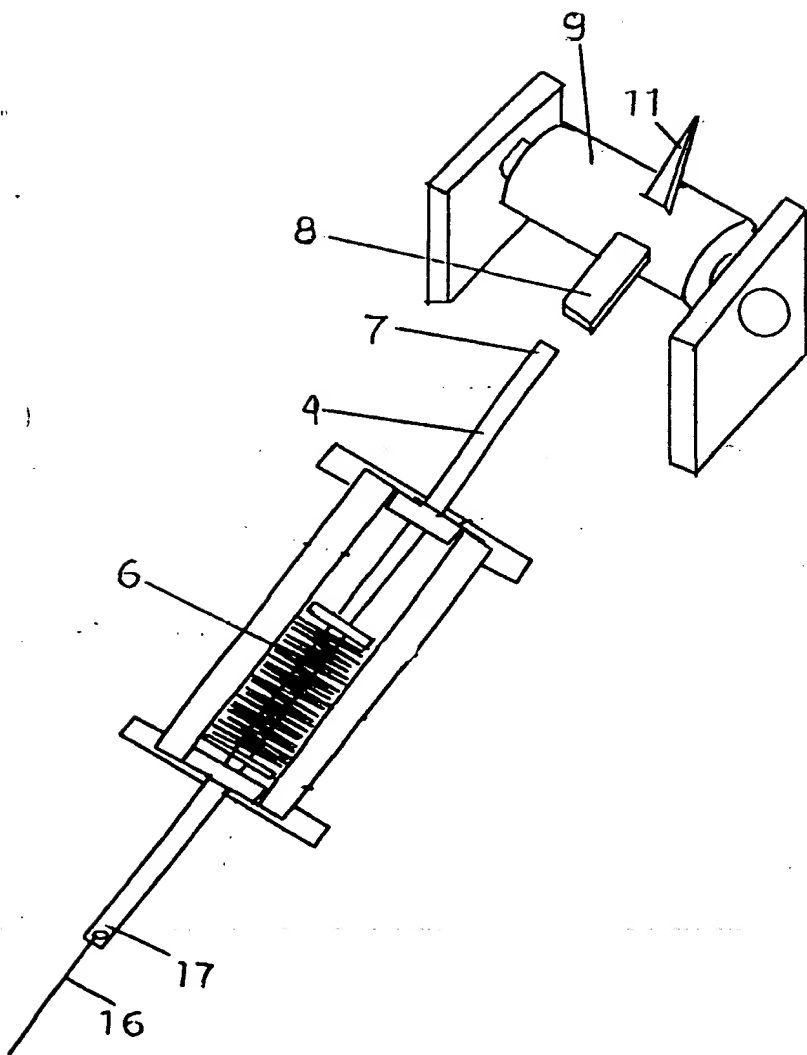
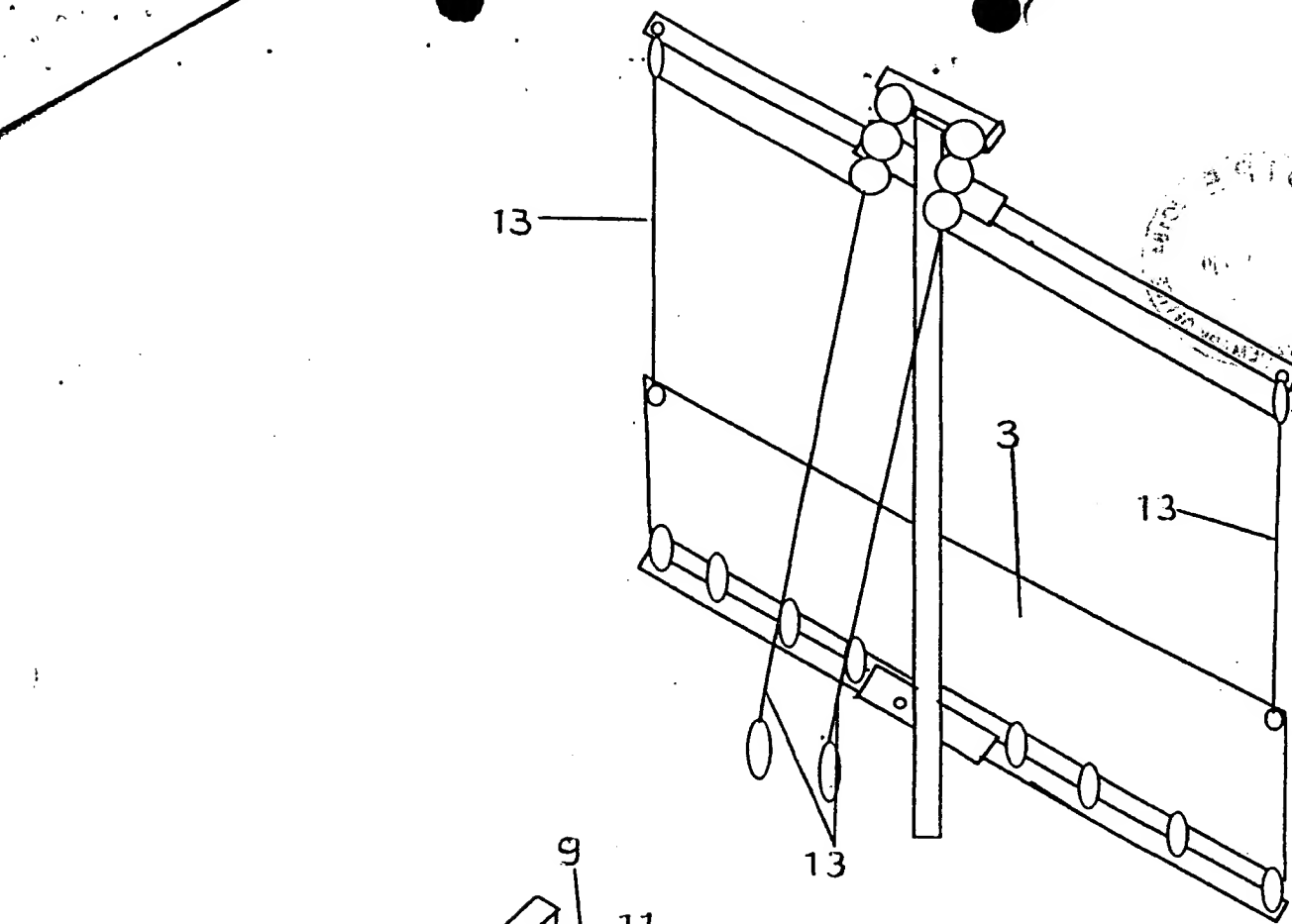


FIGURE 3

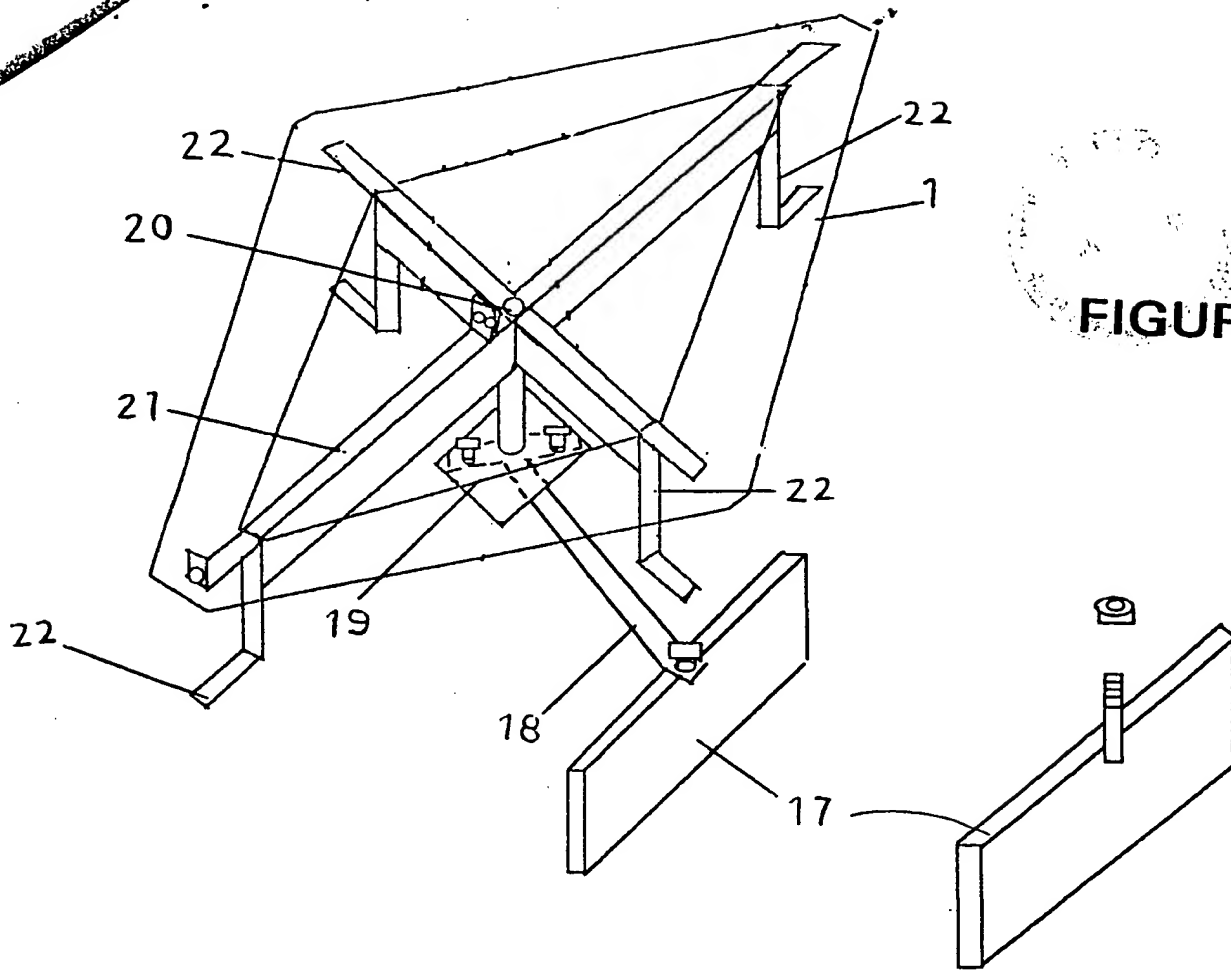


FIGURE 4

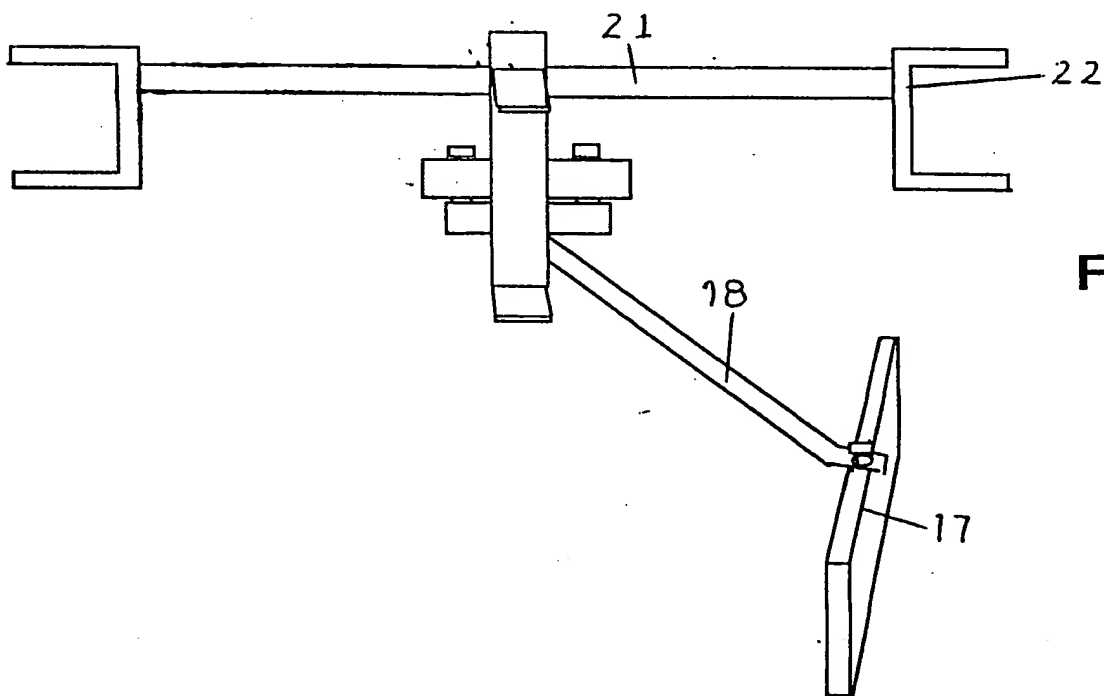


FIGURE 5